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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 460

discussion this year, the district became affiliated with four Class III districts, Madison, Battle Creek, Newman Grove, and Humphrey, Newman Grove and Humphrey being in my district. The affiliation petition for District 97 specifically stated at paragraph 7: Should District 97 merge with another Class I, the affiliation of the subject of the petition shall continue. Should the District 97 dissolve, none of the properties in the District 97 will be bound by the effects of this petition which is contained in the affiliation agreements. All of the high school districts involved approved Kalamazoo District 97 affiliation petition and the petition was signed by representatives of each high school district, as well as representatives of the Class I district. The landowners in the Kalamazoo district entered into the affiliation contract in good faith with a specific position spelled out in the petition that if the Class I district were to be closed, they would not be bound to have their land merged when it was affiliated. It was not until 1998 that the Legislature passed changes to the law which gave a Class II or III district which had 50 percent or more of a Class I district's land affiliated with it, power to disapprove any proposed placement of land in the Class I district other than where it was affiliated if the district were closed. Now Senator Tyson's amendment which has become a part of LB 460 proposes to drop that percentage to 8 percent, which would virtually nullify any ability of the Class I landowners to merge their property somewhere other than affiliated. This came to my attention several weeks ago, and this weekend I spoke with two members of my...two constituents in my district that now are not able to put their land in this affiliated district, which they...in which they were supposed to be in, which they desired to be in, with the passage of Senator Tyson's bill...excuse me, amendment to the bill. So therefore I would like to have on record as saying I oppose this bill simply because the amendment attached to it does some damage to the districts in where I reside, the schools in where I reside. With that, Mr. Speaker, I will ask for a machine vote on this if possible. Thank you.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Dierks.

SENATOR DIERKS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature. I too have just become aware of this amendment